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Letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Mexico has decided to apply for membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Government of Mexico has an open policy of offering asylum and refuge to those who have had to leave their countries of origin for various reasons. This is borne out by the thousands of refugees who, in the modern history of my country, have been accepted by Mexico and who undoubtedly have enriched its educational, cultural and social life.

Recently, the end of the Guatemalan refugee programme in Mexico provided a tangible illustration of the policy of protecting refugees and seeking durable, humanitarian and comprehensive solutions. The so-called "Mexican solution" consisted of a dual approach of promoting the voluntary return of refugees when circumstances so permitted, while providing for the local integration of those who decided to stay in Mexico and those who acquired Mexican nationality.

In view of its accession, in June 2000, to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, Mexico reiterates its commitment to cooperating in the protection and assistance of refugees, in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned international instruments and with the principles of non-return and maintenance of family unity.

For these reasons, I am informing you of Mexico's interest in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the conviction that my country will make a positive contribution to the search for new and innovative solutions to the problem of refugees.

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To this end, I have the honour to request that this note be circulated, on an urgent basis, as a document of the Economic and Social Council, so that it may be considered by the Council members at the current substantive session of 2000.

(*Signed*) Manuel **Tello**
Permanent Representative of Mexico
to the United Nations